Take a journey into past by touring two sites Sunday

HURLEY — Take a journey into Jackson County's long ago.

Two sites of special local heritage will be open to the public on Sunday, April 5, from 1-5 p.m.

The Friends of East Central Public Library is sponsoring this fund raising event. A $2 donation will be collected at each house on the tour.

The sites are the John Charles Ely farm and farmhouse and the Granly Danish meeting house/church.

The Harleston farm and farmhouse of Ely, a prominent turn-of-the-century Jackson County farmer and stock raiser, is located on Davis Sawmill Road.

John Ely (1859-1922) was the son of John Charles Ely (1819-1904) and Margaret Elizabeth Davis (1825-1910). The home was built by Ely in 1887-88 for his bride, Olivia Steed (1865-1937). John and Olivia Ely had seven sons.

Of special interest to the historical preservationist is the farmhouse, which is unchanged since a parlor was added about 1918. Many originial basic furnishings are in the home and this makes a unique museum of local homes of the past.

The pantry and kitchen with original dishes and furnishings, plus clothing from the turn of the century, makes this tour a special treat.

The farm has an unusual corn crib, root cellar and old implements.

Granly, a Danish name given to a new community in the 1930s, translation means "evergreen shelter" or "in the shelter of the pines."

As this small Danish community or colony grew, the community house, known as "forsamlingshus" became the center of religious services, gymnastics and many celebrations.

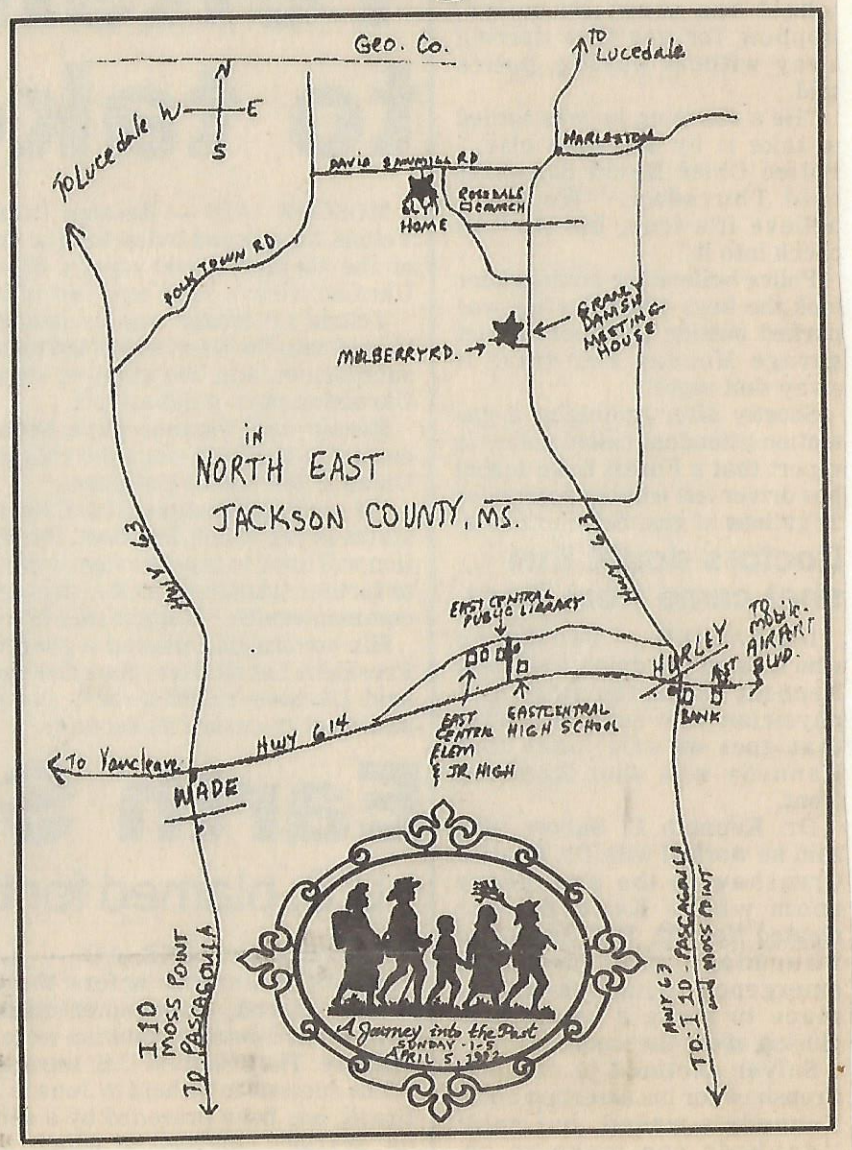
Twenty-five or so families lived and farmed in the area which is located between Harleston and Hurley.

Preserved by the Granly Danish Historical Foundation, this visit to an old gathering place will feature benches and more crafted by the Danish carpenters.

The Jimmy Madsen Memorial Nature Trail is available for exploring.

The local collectors of depression era glassware, depicting many patterns of glassware, will present a show in the meeting house. Lemonade and cookies will be served.

For more information on the tour of the two historic sites, contact Else Martin at 588-6263 or 588-6520 or Frank Ely at 588-6625.



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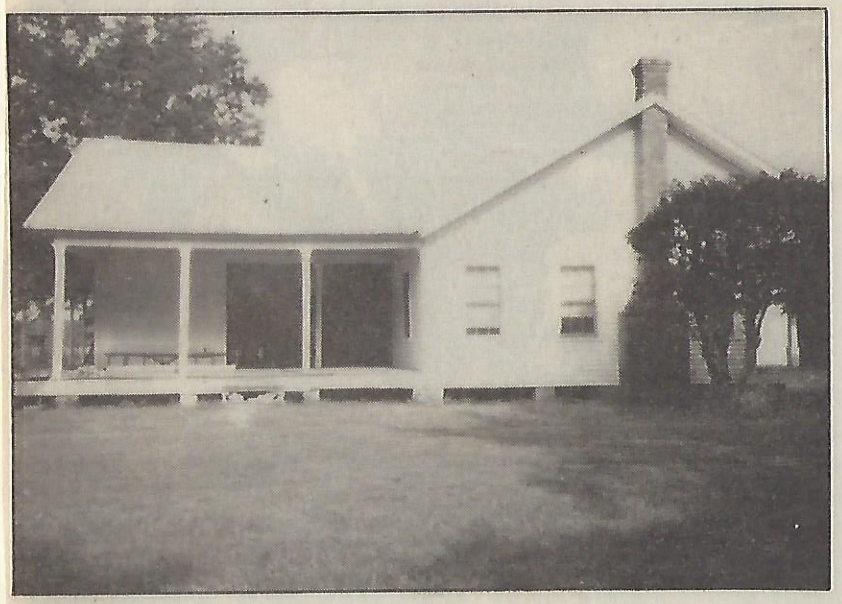
COASTLINES



JOHN CHARLES ELY farmhouse in Harleston.

GRANLY DANISH MEETING house/church.

PRESTIGE HOMES recently captured first place in the East Central Junior T-ball League. Team members are (front row, from left) Michael LeMaster, Michael George, Sharli Ely, Mary Lindsay Haskins and Kurt Pederson. (Second row) Demetris Brazzle, Tyler West, Keith Smith, Colby McMahan, Amy Heath, Jared Porter and Ryan Taylor. (Top row) Coaches David Porter, Tommy LeMaster, Clayton Ely and Charlene Taylor.

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Son of Charles Ely
g'son of Melvin Ely
g g'son of John Chas. Ely
g g g'son of ~~Clayton Ely~~ John Chas. Ely
g g g g'son of Antoine + Sarah Cumbest Ely

LIBRARY

New Singing River president, Ely, enjoys retirement with family on Hurley

by Lorri Smith
Publications Specialist

When Singing River Electric President Frank Ely is not in the board room, you will mostly likely find him at his home in Hurley tending his cattle or working on the family homestead.

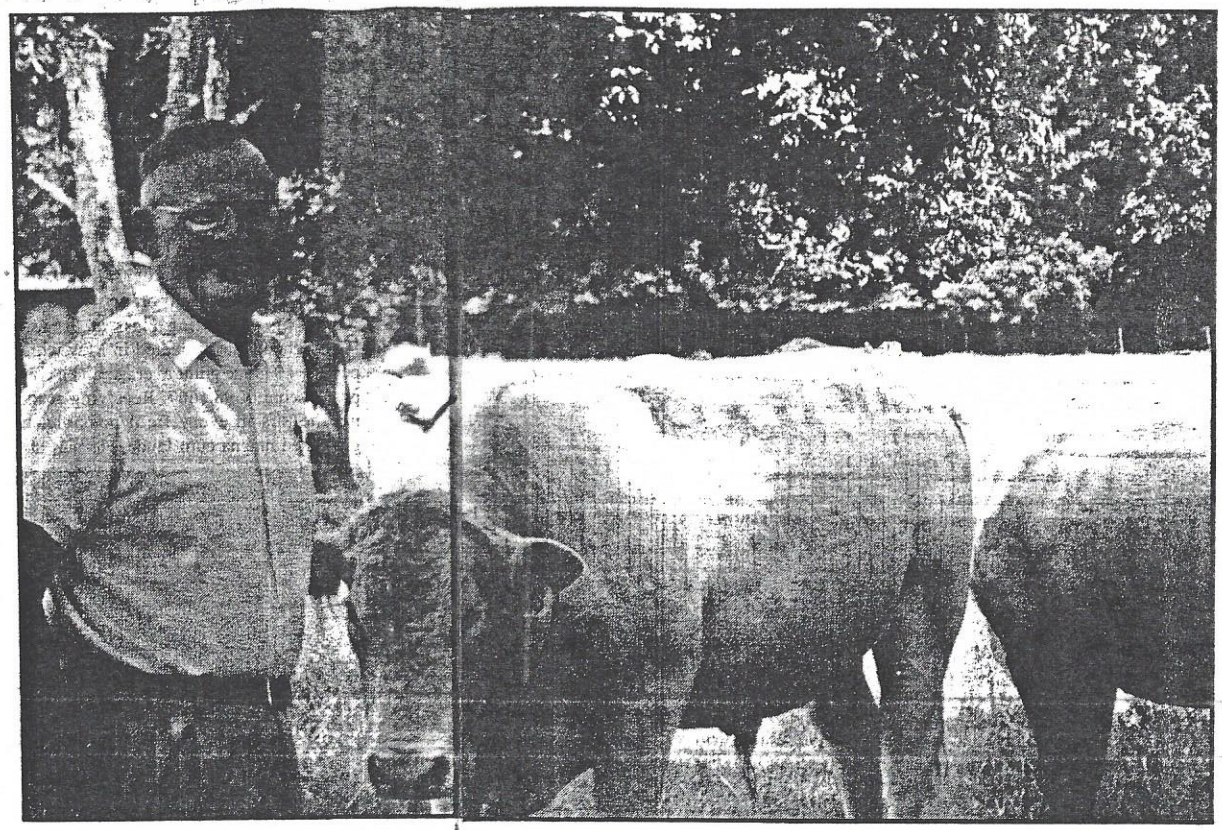
Retired from the Mississippi State Highway Patrol and the Mississippi Legislature, Ely has the time and experience needed to lead Singing River Electric into the future. Ely became president of Singing River Electric Power Association's board of directors in April of this year following the passing away of Naif Jordan.

For Ely, serving as president of the member-owned electric power organization serving 47,000 consumers is a responsibility he takes serious and serves with honor.

"I will have served on the board 15 years next year," commented Ely, "and, as a member as well as a director, we will continue each year to find ways for Singing River Electric to better serve its consumers."

Ely credits the employees of Singing River Electric for the association's success. "They do a great job and are interested in getting the job done in the best and most efficient manner for the consumer."

Electricity, however, is not the only avenue in which Frank Ely has traveled. He dedicated a great part of his life to law enforcement in Jackson County. Ely was a Mississippi State Trooper for 31 years.



Frank Ely, president of Singing River Electric Power Association's board of directors, grazes cattle on his scenic 40-acre farm in Hurley.

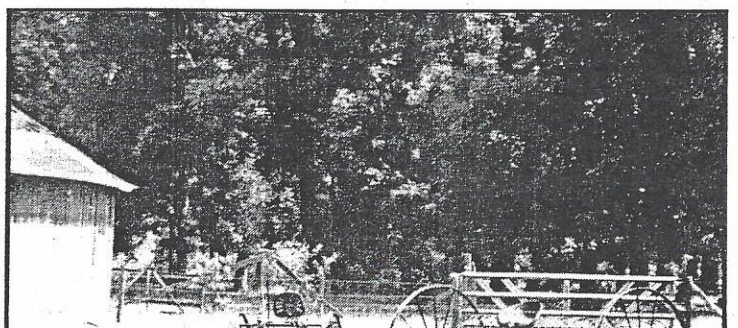
"I went on highway patrol a single man and came out 31 years later a grandfather," said Ely. In all his years as a state trooper, he never once had to use his gun or make an arrest for drug possession, something commonplace for troopers today.

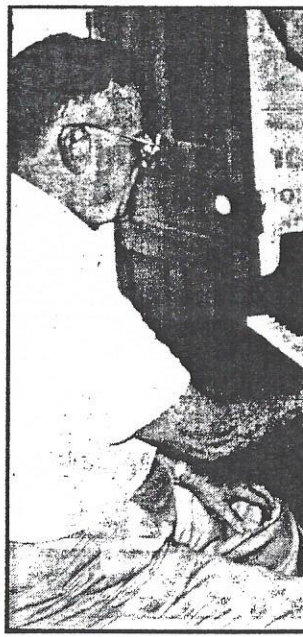
Beside serving as a patrolman, Ely also represented Jackson County in the Mississippi State Legislature for six years.

Cattle farming, fishing, and travelling are some of the ways Ely spends his time now. Around 30 cattle graze on the Ely's 40-acre farm in Hurley.

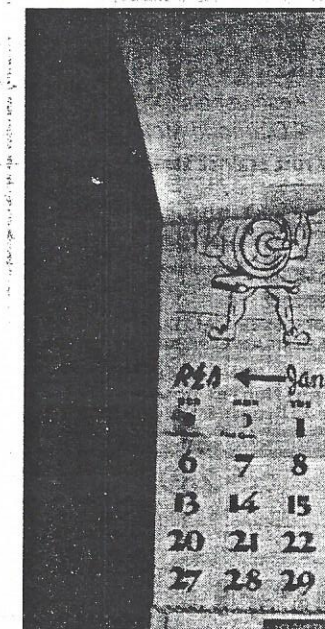
About a mile west of his home is the family homestead where his father, Melvin Ely, was raised. The home was built in 1888 for his grandmother, Mary Olivia, and is maintained by Ely and his wife, Nedra, in its original condition, including some of the original furnishings, clothing and kitchen utensils.

Being one of 12 children, Frank Ely quickly learned the importance of family. He and Nedra devote their time to caring for the old homestead to share it





Ely and his family have restored mu
home. Here Ely plays a piano that

with future generations in Jackson Co
Furnishing from the period include a
piano dating back to 1914.

The Ely homestead has been show
cased in the Jackson-George County
Regional Library's Tour of Homes, an